



Durham

Environmental Affairs Board

Meeting Notes

May 25, 2004 ■ 6:00 p.m.

Conference Room A
Ground Floor, City Hall

Meeting Notes

Members Present: Will Anderson, Sharon Beard, Ahrash Bissell, Mathew Greenwolfe, Judy Kincaid, Dock Terrell, Bill Harnett, Rick Crume,

Members Absent: Ray Eurquhart, Darryl Roberts, and Kathi Beratan

Guests Present: Ellen Reckhow, Heidi Duer

Staff Present: Frank Duke, Glen Whisler, Vicki Westbrook, Keith Luck, and Kathleen Snyder

Meeting Notes:

Will Anderson, Vice Chairman, presided and called the meeting to order. Judy Kincaid made a motion to approve the meeting notes, Bill Harnett seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

Introduction of Guests

Will Anderson introduced two guests, Chairman Ellen Reckhow of the County Commissioners and Heidi Duer of the County Manager's Office. Also, the staff present at the meeting were acknowledged.

Old Business

1. **Air Quality and the EAB's Role** - Ellen Reckhow presented the EAB with a County Commissioners Request for Board Action that was approved on May 24, 2004. The County Commissioners requested that the EAB "to develop air quality initiatives for Durham County by consulting similar studies including the Wake County Air Quality Report, the Greenhouse Gas Emission Study, and other strategies as appropriate". The request continued with the County Manager's recommendation that the Environmental Affairs Board "spearhead the air quality initiatives for Durham County".

Having presented the Commissioners request, Chairman Reckhow spoke on the concerns that prompted this request and on some of the possible elements of the EAB's response. She discussed the EPA's current non-attainment status for the region and its impetus for action on air quality. She urged the EAB to develop air quality initiatives and interact with the elected officials, particularly through the use of advisory memos. Chairman Reckhow mentioned: protocols for ozone alert days, methods of reducing the pollution

from off-road and municipally-owned diesel vehicles, revisiting and updating the Greenhouse Gas Plan, and studying the surrounding municipalities' air quality plans to provide information to allow Durham to mesh with regional air quality measures. Bill Harnett inquired as to the timeframe for the information that has been requested. Chairman Reckhow said that ideally the Board would issue an annual report as well as to have some medium term initiatives under way. Dock Terrell asked for the following documents to review: the Wake County Air Quality Report, the Board's Response to that report, the TJ COG's Air Quality initiatives chart (which was then handed out at the meeting), and the Greenhouse Gas Report and Plan. Ahrash Bissell suggested polling the public to get feed back on ideas that they might have about air quality improvement.

Will Anderson asked if the task at hand was to deal with air quality in general or to focus only on ozone. He emphasized that there was only so much that Durham can affect due to pollution from power plants. The issue of the particulate matter level arose at this time and it was mentioned that Durham is very close to becoming non-compliant. Matt Greenwolfe spoke about incorporating energy efficiency and green power sources to impact the long term air quality. Chairman Reckhow agreed that the long term approach was necessary and suggested that public health be the focus point for motivating the officials and public. Sharon Beard voiced her thoughts on this by suggesting that public health departments and employers need to be educated about air quality and its effects on health. She went on to say that partnerships between large corporations and public agencies should be pursued to address the educational issues and problems of air quality and public health.

Ahrash Bissell inquired about the economic impacts and if air quality issues were being addressed in the transportation and other plans. He went on to express his concern that this effort should not be patchy and that outreach is vital to accomplish our air quality initiative goals. Bill Harnett chimed in with a statement that social marketing needed to be used to effectively produce change on the wider scale and that implement it would most likely be beyond the scope of the Board. Sharon Beard spoke up and urged the Board to consider ways to incorporate grant writing for facilitating funding for any of the initiatives. Her thoughts were that the Board needed to be a source of strong leadership in the community for the promotion of better air quality.

2. **Results Based Accountability and EAB** - Will Anderson introduced Heidi Duer, Assistant to the County Manager. She came to speak about the County's Results Based Accountability Program and the EAB's possible role in implementing this program. Ms. Duer talked about the County's efforts to track the performance of the state of Durham and the government's services. The program that was developed consists of 7 outcome areas that should be tracked. All of the outcome areas are to develop 3 to 5 indicators that can be tracked and that represent the Durham's progress over time. Ms. Duer said that the County Manager's Office would like the EAB to house the Healthy Environment outcome area.

Four initial indicator ideas were proposed by a workgroup developing the Results Based Accountability Program that were very similar to some of the indicators included in the EAB's Environmental Indicators Report. Mr. Bissell asked about the status of the EAB's

report and Ms. Snyder replied that she had contacted most of the agencies which supplied the information.

Mr. Harnett asked Heidi Duer what the deadline for the information gathering and reporting. Ms. Duer said that the indicators should be an annual update and that she would like to attempt to have the information by early 2005. She went on to stress that the EAB should look over the indicators that were suggested and see if the EAB felt that these were appropriate. Sharon Beard suggested looking into the fiscal aspects of the budget that related to the indicators. Frank Duke addressed this by saying that the fiscal aspects are handled by the elected officials and this was out of the ability of the Board to track.

The concern was raised about the collection of information over time and providing continuity of data trends. Frank Duke suggested that the Board set up a process with the agencies responsible for the data collection to automatically report this information to the EAB. Heidi Duer agreed to email the all the results from initial workshop that the environmental and other groups produced.

3. **Visioning Process Results** - The Board reviewed the grouped results from the visioning process that occurred at the last meeting. Ms. Snyder suggested that the Board should try incorporating as many of these ideas and goals into the current requests from the County Commissioners and the County Manager's Office. The Board agreed and would like to keep these goals available for review throughout the year to help remind them of what they consider to be the key items to address.

New Business

1. **Nomination Committee Report** - The nominating committee reported on their progress the upcoming Board officer elections in June. Will Anderson and Judy Kincaid announced that the committee nominates Sharon Beard for Chairman, Ahrash Bissell as Vice Chairman, and Will Anderson for Secretary. Will Anderson reminded the Board that his nomination and potential election was dependant on his re-appointment to the EAB. They also encouraged anyone that might wish to nominate themselves or others to do so. No one else on the Board offered nominations.
2. **Presentation Scheduling Request** - Frank Duke announced that he would like to make a presentation to the EAB at the next meeting on the drafts of the Comprehensive Plan and the Unified Development Ordinance. He would like the Board to consider making comments on the documents so that they could possibly be incorporated in the final drafts. The Board assented to his request.
3. **Excused Absences Definition** - Frank Duke stated to the Board that an excused absence definition needed to be created for Board attendance policies. He noted that the appointing bodies had recently raised concerns about re-appointing Board members who have poor attendance. These bodies have asked that all of the boards keep records on attendance and create more definitive details as to what constitutes an excused absence. The Board asked if there were existing policies for other board that the EAB could use as a basis for creating their own policy. Planning Director Duke replied that there was not

current a policy in place for other boards and that the EAB should think about how they wanted to structure their policy. The creation of a definition was determined to be an action item for the next meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathleen Snyder, Planner
June 2, 2004